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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 31 August 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter from His Excellency Mr. Vladislav Jovanović, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you (see annex) and enclosing a copy of the Minister's letter to Her Excellency Mrs. Margaretha af Ugglas, Chairman of the Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (see appendix).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its enclosures circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 79 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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* A/48/150 and Corr.1.

ANNEX

Letter dated 30 August 1993 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia addressed to the Secretary-General

I enclose herewith my letter addressed to the Chairman of the Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Mrs. Margaretha af Ugglas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden, kindly requesting her to take appropriate steps to prevent the media war of some countries against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see appendix).

I would appreciate if you would inform the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council of its contents and circulate it as an official document of the United Nations.

I hope that the world Organization will also take adequate measures to protect its Member State.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ

APPENDIX

Letter dated 30 August 1993 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia addressed to the Chairman of the Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

I am writing to you in connection with the latest announcements by United States Administration officials and some United States media heralding their positions that the propaganda campaign against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia will be intensified. These tendencies have mushroomed recently within the general propaganda campaign against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, its legitimate authorities and the entire Serbian people. I particularly have in mind the statements made by United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher in mid-July 1993, in which the United States strategy in the field of information was elaborated and the above intentions implicitly indicated. At the same time, its main directions were expressed in press articles (e.g. The New York Times of 12 July 1993) and over the Voice of America in the Serbian language of 31 July 1993. These activities include radio broadcasts for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from a ship in the Adriatic Sea, the announced new broadcasts of Radio Free Europe in the Serbian language, the establishment of Free Serbia radio broadcasting, the United States request to install a radio transmitter for the Voice of America in Romania, which will, most likely, be used primarily for the Yugoslav audience, planned satellite TV broadcasting in the Serbian language, exemption of the Yugoslav opposition media from sanctions and expressed readiness to finance them. This also includes the new programme policy of the Radio Free Europe and Liberty radio stations, which are obviously focusing their attention on Yugoslavia after the changes that have taken place in the East European countries. It is openly underlined that the media war against the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and particularly against the Republic of Serbia, should be intensified, and that the opposition should be supported in their overthrowing. The alleged antagonisms between Serbia and Montenegro are being exploited and the secession of Montenegro from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is being advocated.

It is known that the basic principles of the Helsinki Final Act, from which the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) evolved, and other provisions contained in CSCE documents do not recognize any kind of pressure against a sovereign participating State. Accordingly, the first basic principle calls for the respect of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, freedom and political independence of participating States, as well as their right freely to chose their political, economic and social system, and to determine their laws and regulations. The sixth fundamental principle provides that the participating States should refrain from any intervention, direct or indirect, individual or collective, in the internal affairs of another participating State. It should also be noted that the Charter of the United Nations, in its Article 2, proclaims sovereign equality of the Member States and the principle of non-interference in internal affairs.

A separate radio/TV programme or station of a participating State located in its own or the territory of another State, whose goal is open propaganda against a third State, is an unacceptable form of pressure in direct violation

of the basic principles, provisions and commitments of the CSCE. The Helsinki Final Act in its section on information, clearly states that the activities in this field should contribute to confidence-building and understanding among the participating States and promote their cooperation. It also underlines that dissemination of information broadcast by radio should be in the interest of confidence-building among peoples and the aims set forth by CSCE.

Therefore, we consider that any activity in this field which falls short of the high standards and the requirement set out in the above-mentioned international documents is in direct contravention of the said principles generally accepted by the international community. Any one-sided and imposed information aimed at contesting the legally elected and legitimate authorities, contrary to the letter and spirit of CSCE, denies those provisions which call for the respect of the freely expressed will of the citizens of any State. Foreign interference in the life of political parties and in democratic forms of competition between them is also contrary to CSCE provisions. To accept such a practice would mean to confirm clearly the intentions of some States to turn CSCE into an instrument of their narrow strategic objectives in this region.

The freedom and exchange of information is, undoubtedly rooted in the provisions of CSCE documents, particularly in the Helsinki Final Act, the Copenhagen Document, the Final Document of the Vienna Meeting and the Paris Charter for a New Europe. All these provisions call for and protect the freedom of information, press, radio and television, which should serve, exclusively, the promotion of cooperation, tolerance and understanding among the participating States and the development of their democracy and democratic institutions, and not the destabilization of, and incitement of political tensions in a State or arouse tensions among States. The abuse of these principles, which has regrettably been a frequent practice in respect of the Yugoslav crisis, is totally unacceptable, and challenges the CSCE participating States and the entire international community. Such a practice can in no way contribute to the reaching of a peaceful solution to the crisis in the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; on the contrary, it can seriously impair the ongoing peace efforts and seriously affect the situation not only in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, but in the Balkans as well.

Statements by United States officials and United States media reports on the alleged need to enhance democracy in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and to support the so-called independent media and the opposition to come to power are also unjustified and contrary to existing CSCE principles. The opposition in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is legal and has full freedom of political activity and expression. Therefore, change of power cannot be imposed by foreign interference, pressures, propaganda war and a media campaign. It can be achieved only through free democratic elections.

In view of the above, the Yugoslav Government considers that CSCE should devote full attention to these questions, since their appropriate handling is in the interest of all the participating States. The Yugoslav Government also considers that it is necessary to draw the attention of the protagonists of the information and media campaign against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the fact that such practice is in direct contravention of the norms regulating international communication among sovereign States and of the principles of the

United Nations and CSCE, and that it abuses one of the fundamental human values - freedom and exchange of information - making it counterproductive.

It is our expectation that CSCE will have an understanding for, and appropriately respond to our concern, and we kindly request CSCE protection against the illegal foreign media war against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ